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The U.S. Board on Geographic Names Publications Catalog

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

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U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) Publications Catalog

This catalog highlights the various publications produced by the BGN and summarizes their contents.

Some of these publications are free; others are reasonably priced. All publications and their prices are on a separate price list included with this catalog. This price list will be updated as needed to reflect new and revised editions, as well as changes in prices.

For further information about the BGN or on geographic names in the United States or Antarctica, please refer to page 12 for the address and phone number of the BGN Executive Secretary for Domestic Names.

For further information on geographic names in foreign countries and areas, please refer to page 12 for the address and phone number of the BGN Executive Secretary for Foreign Names.

What Is the U.S. Board on Geographic Names?

It is *the* organization of the Federal Government that develops principles, policies, and procedures regulating the spelling, use, and application of geographic names—the single authority in the United States to which all problems and inquiries concerning geographic names throughout the world may be addressed. Created in 1890, the Board oversees naming issues connected with domestic, foreign, Antarctic, and undersea areas. On the average, it reviews approximately 1,000 domestic names annually and may approve thousands of foreign names. In practice, it determines the standardized placenames Americans use every day.

The Executive Order establishing the BGN on September 4, 1890, states "to this Board shall be referred all unsettled questions concerning geographic names which arise in the Departments, and the decisions of the Board are to be accepted by these Departments as the standard authority in such matters..." The BGN was reorganized and created in its present form by Public Law 242-80 in 1947.

"...all poetry is but a giving of names"

Thomas Carlyle

Titles searched for non-residents

General Publications

"United States Board on Geographic Names" (12 pgs)—
This short, informative pamphlet outlines the history and responsibilities of the BGN and provides a good introduction to BGN activities, as well as where and how to write for information. This pamphlet may be obtained free by writing either of the addresses on page 12 of this catalog.

"Geographic Names and the Federal Government: A Bibliography" (59 pgs)—
This cumulative listing of BGN publications from 1890 to 1990 includes decision lists, gazetteers, and other documents, many of which are archival and no longer available. This list may be obtained from the Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540-5560.

"Principles, Policies, and Procedures" (36 pgs)—
This basic guideline of the Domestic Names Committee discusses naming policies and procedures. It is a must-have handbook for those interested in exploring the complexities associated with domestic naming. These guidelines may be obtained free from the Executive Secretary for Domestic Names, U.S. Board on Geographic Names, U.S. Geological Survey, 523 National Center, Reston, VA 22092-0523.

"Abbreviations for Names of Geopolitical Entities and Other Selected Areas of the World" (8 pgs)—
Due to the restricted space on smaller scale maps and within certain documents, cartographers and authors frequently need abbreviations for country and other area names. Revised in October 1992, and published under the authority of the BGN, this concise guide provides abbreviations for countries and areas outside of the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii.

"BGN Romanization Guide"—
This guide contains the Romanization systems that have been adopted by the BGN for the conversion of geographic names spellings from non-Roman writing systems to the Roman alphabet. Some of these systems may be applied with no more training than that required to recognize the graphic symbols of the particular non-Roman orthography. Other systems, however, may require acquaintance with the phonological and (or) morphological structures of particular languages. A number of the systems are identified as BGN/PCGN Systems, indicating that they are jointly agreed to by the BGN and the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use (PCGN). The new edition of the "BGN Romanization Guide" should be available for sale in late 1993.

Factsheets (3)—
The Board distributes a series of factsheets describing certain products and programs related to domestic geographic naming activities. Factsheets are available detailing the Commemorative Naming Policy of the Domestic Names Committee of the Board, the Geographic Names Information System (the Nation's official automated names depository), and "The National Gazetteer of the United States of America." The factsheets are free from the Executive Secretary for Domestic Names, U.S. Board on Geographic Names, U.S. Geological Survey, 523 National Center, Reston, VA 22092-0523.

"Field Investigation of Native American Placenames" (6 pgs)—
The recording of geographic names of indigenous peoples, whose languages originally lacked written alphabets, requires special attention. This pamphlet addresses some of the general requirements and procedures for collecting and applying Native American names. The pamphlet is free from the Executive Secretary for Domestic Names, U.S. Board on Geographic Names, U.S. Geological Survey, 523 National Center, Reston, VA 22092-0523.

Gazetteers

(alphabetical listing of geographic names)

The Board authorizes the publication of both domestic and foreign gazetteers. Domestic volumes, published State by State, are comprehensive collections of feature names found on current and historical maps, charts, and texts. Foreign volumes generally list names published on current maps of a particular country. Both domestic and foreign gazetteers are distributed by the U.S. Geological Survey. Included with this catalog is a price list for the gazetteers with publication dates, file numbers, and ordering instructions.

Domestic Areas

"The National Gazetteer of the United States of America"—
This Nation's official gazetteer will be composed of separate volumes for each State, territory, and outlying area. Before publication, these volumes require extensive research, compilation, and evaluation of numerous Federal, State, and local resources, as well as historical documents, a process taking about 3 years per State. Upon completion, volumes contain a feature's official name, variant names cross referenced to the official name, feature type, geographic coordinates, county reference, topographic map name, elevation (in some cases), and year of BGN decision. Prior to completion of this compilation effort, other State listings are available as interim gazetteers containing the same data categories (except for variant names). The same information contained in these interim gazetteers is available as microfiche files and as files on magnetic tape. Special searches are available as bound listings and on magnetic tape, but not as microfiche. A list of published, interim, and special gazetteer volumes of domestic areas follows.

Published gazetteer volumes

Completed Volumes	**Date**
Arizona	1986
Concise (abridged U.S.)	1990
Delaware	1983
Florida	1992
Indiana	1988
Kansas	1985
New Jersey	1982
North Dakota	1990
South Dakota	1989

Interim gazetteer volumes

State Name
Alabama
Alaska
American Samoa
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Connecticut
District of Columbia
Georgia
Guam
Hawaii
Idaho
Illinois
Iowa
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Micronesia
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
Montana
Nebraska
Nevada
New Hampshire
New Mexico
New York
North Carolina
Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Puerto Rico
Rhode Island
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Utah
Vermont
Virginia

Virgin Islands
Washington
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Wyoming
Populated Places in the United States and Territories
Topographic Map Names Data Base

Special volumes

Concise— Published in 1990, this volume includes entries for major populated places, administrative areas, and physical features within the United States and areas under its jurisdiction.

District of Columbia— The U.S. Geological Survey, in cooperation with the BGN, intends to publish the District of Columbia volume of "The National Gazetteer" in a special format. In addition to the complete standard format, there will be a second section detailing the name origins and histories of approximately 2,000 of the more than 4,000 entries. This volume will be available in late 1994.

Foreign Areas

The first foreign gazetteer was published in 1949. Since then the Board has authorized publication of gazetteers covering approximately 175 areas and including about 5 million names. Information available for foreign countries, territories, undersea features, and Antarctic features includes alphabetically listed names, approved official spellings, some variant spellings, abbreviations for feature type, and geographic coordinates and other locational data. Gazetteers need revision as political changes lead to new national entities. Names of populated places also change, which requires revising approximately seven gazetteers annually. The Defense Mapping Agency publishes gazetteers in support of the BGN's mission. A list of gazetteers for foreign areas follows.

Country/Area Name and Number of Entries*	**Date**
Afghanistan (50,500)	1992
Volume I: A-M	
Volume II: N-Z	
Africa and Southwest Asia (Supplement) (3,150)	1972
Albania (20,100)	1992
Algeria (45,200)	1972
Americas (Supplement) (927)	1971
Andorra (3,100)	1981
Angola (25,500)	1986
Antarctica (14,908)	1989
Argentina (51,600)	1992
Volume I: A-L	
Volume II: M-Z	
Asia (Supplement) (2,075)	1972
Australia (62,000)	1957
Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania (Supplement) (700)	1972
Austria (27,500)	1962
Bahrain (900)	1983
Bangladesh (33,700)	1976
Belgium (23,850)	1963
Bolivia (33,300)	1992
Brazil (62,500)	1963
Brazil (Supplement) (12,000)	1992
British Honduras (2,000)	1956
British Solomon (11,600) and Gilbert and Ellice (850) Islands	1974
British West Indies and Bermuda (19,500)	1955
Bulgaria (26,000)	1987
Burma (52,000)	1966
Burundi (3,000)	1964
Cambodia (22,000)	1971
Cameroon (18,000)	1962
Canada (16,700)	1953
Central African Republic (16,700)	1962
Ceylon (29,600)	1960
Chad (16,600)	1989
Chile (39,700)	1967
Chile (Supplement) (6,900)	1992
China, Mainland (Wade-Giles) (108,000)	1968
Volume I: A-L	
Volume II: M-Z	
China, Republic of (Wade-Giles) (25,000)	1974
China, People's Republic of (Pinyin) (96,000)	1990
Volume I: A-H	
Volume II: I-R	
Volume III: S-Z	

Colombia (27,000) 1988
Congo, Republic of the (formerly Belgian) (30,400) 1964
Congo (formerly French) (7,700) 1962
Conventional Names (780) 1988
Costa Rica (5,500) 1983
Cuba (45,000) 1991
Volume I: A-L
Volume II: M-Z
Czechoslovakia (36,600) 1955
Dahomey (6,250) 1965
Denmark and the Faroe Islands (21,650) 1990
Djibouti (6,750) 1983
Dominican Republic (28,400) 1972
Ecuador (16,000) 1987
Egypt (28,000) 1987
Egypt (Errata Sheet) 1987
El Salvador (7,750) 1982
Ethiopia (30,500) 1982
Europe and U.S.S.R. (Supplement) (1,770) 1971
Fiji (13,250), Tonga (950), and Nauru (75) 1974
Finland (39,800) 1962
France (95,000) 1964
Volume I: A-L
Volume II: M-Z
French Guiana (4,052) 1993
French West Indies (3,250) 1957
Gabon (8,000) 1962
Gambia (2,400) 1968
German Democratic Republic (40,000) and Berlin (420) 1983
Volume I: A-K
Volume II: L-Z
Ghana (20,000) 1967
Gibraltar (321) 1984
Greece (35,900) 1960
Greenland (11,000) 1983
Guatemala (14,900) 1984
Guinea (12,400) 1965
Guyana (7,300) 1976
Haiti (13,000) 1973
Hawaiian Islands (7,250) 1956
Honduras (22,000) 1983
Hong Kong (2,875) and Macao (125) 1972
Hungary (29,812) 1993
Iceland (16,500) 1961
India (30,650) 1952
Volume I: A-J (Bhutan, French India, Jammu and Kashmir, Nepal, Portuguese India, and India)
Volume II: K-Z (India)
Indian Ocean Islands (4,000) 1957
Indonesia (71,000) 1982
Volume I: A-M
Volume II: N-Z
Iran (83,000) 1984
Volume I: A-J
Volume II: K-Z
Iraq (17,200) 1990
Ireland (7,300) 1950
Israel (7,700) 1983
Italy (28,800) 1956
Ivory Coast (17,700) 1965
Japan (28,700) 1953
Jordan (13,000) 1990
Kenya (30,000) 1978
Kuwait (1,500) 1986
Laos (21,000) 1973
Lebanon (37,000) 1970
Liberia (10,600) 1976
Libya (37,500) 1988
Luxembourg (1,300) 1951
Madagascar (20,000) 1989
Malawi (10,200) 1970
Malaysia (60,000) 1970
Mali (17,800) 1966
Malta (2,350) 1971
Mauritania (10,000) 1966
Mexico (80,200) 1992
Volume I: A-I
Volume II: J-R
Volume III: S-Z
Mongolia (18,000) 1988
Morocco (55,000) 1970
Mozambique (32,500) 1969
Namibia (8,700) 1988
Netherlands (20,900) 1982
Netherlands Antilles (600) 1952
New Caledonia (5,700) and Wallis and Futuna (250) 1974
New Hebrides (4,500) 1974
New Zealand (18,500) 1954
Nicaragua (7,500) 1985
Niger (14,700) 1966
Nigeria (42,000) 1971
North Korea (30,000) 1982
Norway (72,550) 1964
Oman (5,800) 1983
Pakistan (33,600) 1983
Panama (20,000) 1990
Papua New Guinea (27,700) 1982
Paracel and Spratley Islands (650) 1987
Paraguay (4,500) 1992
Peru (24,100) 1989
Philippine Islands (51,350) 1989
Volume I: A-L
Volume II: M-Z

Poland (51,500) 1988
- Volume I: A-L
- Volume II: M-Z

Portugal (25,700) 1961
Portuguese Guinea (8,700) 1968
Qatar (1,300) 1986
Romania (36,500) 1960
Rwanda (3,000) 1964
Saudi Arabia (20,800) 1978
Senegal (15,000) 1990
Sierra Leone (8,800) 1966
Somalia (23,000) 1987
South Africa (117,000) 1992
- Volume I: A-F
- Volume II: G-L
- Volume III: M-R
- Volume IV: S-Z

South Atlantic Islands (3,750) 1957
Southern Rhodesia (22,500) 1973
South Korea (26,500) 1966
South Pacific Islands (5,400) 1957
Spain (50,550) 1961
Spanish Guinea (6,500) 1962
Spanish Sahara (3,000) 1969
Sudan (25,000) 1989
Suriname (3,960) 1993
Sweden (83,000) 1989
- Volume I: A-L
- Volume II: M-Z

Switzerland (3,150) 1950

Syria (29,900) 1983
Tanzania (16,500) 1965
Thailand (45,500) 1966
Togo (7,000) 1966
Tunisia (23,000) 1964
Turkey (71,850) 1984
- Volume I: A-J
- Volume II: K-Z

Uganda (11,900) 1964
Undersea Features (6,700) 1990
United Arab Emirates (4,400) 1987
United Kingdom (28,500) 1950
Upper Volta (11,900) 1965
Uruguay (9,440) 1993
U.S. Possessions in the Caribbean (8,500) 1958
U.S.S.R. (400,000) 1970
- Volume I: A-B
- Volume II: C-J
- Volume III: K
- Volume IV: L-N
- Volume V: O-R
- Volume VI: S-T
- Volume VII: U-Z

U.S.S.R. and Europe (Supplement) (1,770) 1971
Venezuela (25,500) 1993
- Volume I: A-K
- Volume II: L-Z

Vietnam (50,000) 1986
- Volume I: A-K
- Volume II: L-Z

West Bank and Gaza Strip (9,500) 1992
West Germany (129,000) 1960
- Volume I: A-K
- Volume II: L-Z

West Pacific Islands (including Guam) (14,100) 1957
Yemen, Arab Republic of (Sana) (7,400) 1976
Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of (Aden) (11,800) 1976
Yugoslavia (41,000) 1983
- Volume I: A-L
- Volume II: M-Z

Zambia (38,500) 1983
- Volume I: A-L
- Volume II: M-Z

***Country and area names and spellings of names are current up to the gazetteer's publication date. Figures in parentheses following the country name indicate the approximate number of entries in a gazetteer. Geographic names and their spellings do not necessarily reflect recognition of the political status of an area by the United States Government.**

"I have fallen in love with American names"

Stephen Vincent Benet

Periodicals

"BGN Domestic Names Decisions"
The BGN annually releases decision booklets on domestic name changes and new names. From its inception through 1932, the BGN only periodically authorized the publication of cumulative lists of its decisions. From 1933 until 1990, the decision lists were published regularly each quarter. Since 1990, the lists have been published annually. Decision lists printed after 1985 are available free from the Executive Secretary for Domestic Names, U.S. Board on Geographic Names, U.S. Geological Survey, 523 National Center, Reston, VA 22092-0523. Decision lists printed prior to 1985 are out of print and not available.

"Foreign Names Decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names"
The world is always changing, as reflected in the decision papers released periodically by the BGN's Foreign Names Committee. Documents contain names of geographic features, approved by the BGN, as well as names as they appear in local usage and abbreviated descriptions. These serve to update gazetteers. Federal users are urged to follow their agency's policy on local versus conventional names for those features where the BGN has approved the use of both.

"BGN Foreign Names Information Bulletin"
Continuing changes in various parts of the world have necessitated a publication that provides appropriate information on changes in the names of countries, first-order administrative divisions (equivalent to a State in the United States), important populated places, and other significant geographic features. In order to satisfy that requirement, the BGN has initiated the "Foreign Names Information Bulletin." The bulletin supplements the "Foreign Names Decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names." To receive a free copy of the current issue or previous issues, please call one of the following numbers: inside the Washington, DC, area 301-227-2495; outside the Washington, DC, area: 1-800-826-0342.

Title	Date
Foreign Names Decisions Number 10 (Andorra, Antigua, Belize, China, Colombia, Comoros, Iceland, Ireland, Jordan, Madagascar, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Philippines, Romania, Yemen (Aden), and Yemen (Sana))	**1/82**
Foreign Names Decisions Number 11 (Afghanistan, Albania, Antigua, Bangladesh, Berlin, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, China, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Greenland, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kiribati, Mayotte, Morocco, New Zealand, North Korea, Pakistan, Panama, Poland, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Somalia, South Africa, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Turkey, Venezuela, Vietnam, West Germany, and Zimbabwe)	**8/83**
Foreign Names Decisions Number 12 (Albania, Angola, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Chad, China, Egypt, Greece, Guinea, India, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Soviet Union, Sudan, Syria, Taiwan, Turkey, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yugoslavia, and Zimbabwe)	**1/85**
Foreign Names Decisions Number 13 (Afghanistan, Angola, Bahrain, Botswana, Brunei, Burkina, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Congo, Ecuador, Finland, Guyana, India, Iran, Kiribati, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Soviet Union, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Tuvalu, Vietnam, West Bank, Yemen (Aden), Zaire, Zambia, and Zimbabwe)	**3/86**
Foreign Names Decisions Number 14 (Belize/Mexico, Burkina, Burma, Burundi, Colombia, Colombia/Brazil, Colombia/Brazil/Peru, Colombia/Panama, Columbia/ Peru, Columbia/Venezuela, Czechoslovakia/Poland, Ecuador/Colombia, Ecuador/Peru, Egypt, Federated States of Micronesia, Haiti, Iraq/Jordan/Saudi Arabia, Israel, Jordan, North Korea, Papua New Guinea, Peru/Bolivia, Peru/Brazil, Peru/Colombia, Peru/Ecuador, Philippines, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Sudan, Sweden, Sweden/Denmark, Sweden/Finland, Sweden/Norway, and Uganda)	**3/88**

Foreign Names Decisions 5/88
Number 15
(China, French Guiana, Guatemala, and Namibia/Botswana/South Africa/Zambia)

Foreign Names Decisions 8/88
Number 16
(Afghanistan, Bulgaria, China, Ethiopia, Ireland, Jordan, Mongolia, Saint Christopher and Nevis, and Senegal)

Foreign Names Decisions 10/88
Number 17
(Brazil; China/Burma/Nepal/Soviet Union/India/North Korea, Ivory Coast, Suriname, and Tunisia)

Foreign Names Decisions 4/89
Number 18
(Albania, China/India/Mongolia/Nepal/Pakistan, Falkland Islands, Iran, Nigeria, Panama, and South Africa/Botswana/Zimbabwe/Mozambique/Swaziland/Lesotho, and Vanuatu)

Foreign Names Decisions 1/90
Number 19
(Afghanistan, Brazil, Burma, Cuba, Denmark, Hungary, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, and Spain)

Foreign Names Decisions 4/90
Number 20
Albania/Greece/Yugoslavia, Benin, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Lesotho, Poland, Romania, South Korea, and Spain)

Foreign Names Decisions 7/90
Number 21
(Algeria, Bangladesh, Comoros, Czechoslovakia, Federated States of Micronesia, France, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Paraguay, and Seychelles)

Foreign Names Decisions 10/90
Number 22
(Ecuador, Pakistan, Paraguay, Soviet Union, and Yemen)

Foreign Names Decisions 1/91
Number 23
(Berlin, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, East Germany, West Germany, Hungary, India, Mexico, Peru/Bolivia, and Soviet Union)

Foreign Names Decisions 4/91
Number 24
(Albania, Argentina, Argentina/Chile, Argentina/Uruguay, Bahrain, Bolivia/Argentina, Bolivia/Brazil, Bolivia/Chile, Brazil/French Guiana/Suriname, Brazil/Guyana/Venezuela, Brazil/Venezuela, Comoros, Dominican Republic, Ireland, Mozambique, Sudan, and Vietnam)

Foreign Names Decisions 7/91
Number 25
(Bhutan, Bolivia/Brazil, Bolivia/Chile, Chile, Chile/Argentina, Chile/Argentina/Bolivia, Chile/Bolivia, Chile/Peru, Congo, Ethiopia, and New Zealand)

Foreign Names Decisions 10/91
Number 26
(Albania, Estonia, Ethiopia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Soviet Union, Syria, and Zimbabwe)

Foreign Names Decisions 3/92
Number 27
(Azerbaijan, Equatorial Guinea, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, North Korea, Russia, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan)

Foreign Names Decisions 6/92
Number 28
(Azerbaijan, Belarus/Russia/Ukraine, Central African Republic, China, Congo, Ethiopia, Germany, Hungary, India, Libya, Malawi, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Moldova/Ukraine, Nigeria, Somalia, Yugoslavia; and the following "Provisional Names" contained in the second edition of the BGN "Foreign Names Information Bulletin": Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia, and Uzbekistan)

Foreign Names Decisions 1/93
Number 29
(Afghanistan/China/Tajikistan, Afghanistan/Iran/Turkmenistan, Afghanistan/Tajikistan, Afghanistan/Turkmenistan, Afghanistan/Uzbekistan/Turkmenistan/Tajikistan, Armenia/Azerbaijan/Georgia/Russia, Aruba, The Bahamas, Belarus/Latvia/Russia, Belarus/Ukraine, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Belarus, China/Burma, Croatia, Czechoslovakia, Czechoslovakia/Poland, Estonia, French Guiana/Brazil, French Guiana/Suriname, French Guiana/Suriname/Brazil, Guyana, India/China, Iraq/ Saudi Arabia, Ivory Coast, Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan/China, Kazakhstan/Russia, Kazakhstan/Tajikistan/Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan/Uzbekistan, Moldova, Netherlands Antilles/Guadeloupe, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkmenistan/Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, and Russia)

Digital Products

"Geographic Names Information System: Data User's Guide" (24 pgs)—
A reference to the format and nature of data contained in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), the Nation's official automated depository for domestic names. This User's Guide and information about digital products for domestic names may be obtained free from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names, U.S. Geological Survey, 523 National Center, Reston, VA 22092-0523

Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)—
Developed by the U.S. Geological Survey, in cooperation with the BGN, to standardize and disseminate geographic names information for the United States, this automated data system contains primary information for all known places, features, and areas in the United States identified by a proper name. Three separate data bases compose the GNIS: National Geographic Names Data Base, Topographic Map Names Data Base, and Reference Data Base.

National Geographic Names Data Base (NGNDB)—
This publication contains computerized records on almost 2 million geographic feature names in the United States—from populated places, schools, reservoirs, and parks to streams, valleys, springs, and ridges. Each entry includes the federally recognized official name of the feature, as well as other former or current names and variant spellings. Features are categorized by type, location information given by county, geographic coordinates, and U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps on which the feature is portrayed.

Use this data base for locating manmade and natural features, as an aid in local transportation and regional planning, as a tool for product marketing, site selection and analysis, genealogical research, and other purposes.

Standard reports generated from the data base are sold State by State and include all geographic name records currently in GNIS from the individual State and territory data base files. The entries are sorted alphabetically by feature name. Customers may request specialized searches. "The National Gazetteer of the United States of America" is derived from this data base.

Digital Gazetteer—The data bases of the Geographic Names Information System are available as the "National Digital Gazetteer" on a compact disk. The information is easily accessed and exported by using software contained on the disk. A user's guide is included with the digital gazetteer, which will be available in mid-1994.

Topographic Map Names Data Base—
The official name and associated information identifying the Nation's topographic maps, is organized into five map series files:

TOPO024—The file name for maps scaled at 1:24,000 or 1:25,000 (metric); entries for U.S. areas and territories are 7.5 minutes of latitude by 7.5 minutes of longitude; Puerto Rico maps in this file are scaled at 1:20,000 and some Micronesia maps are at 1:10,000.

TOPO062—The file name for maps scaled at 1:62,500, except Alaska and certain older maps for which the scale is 1:63,360; entries for U.S. areas are 15 minutes of latitude by 15 minutes of longitude, except Alaska, which may not be exactly 15 by 15; many previously published maps in this series are no longer available.

TOPO100—The file name for maps scaled at 1:100,000; entries for U.S. areas (including Hawaii) are 30 minutes of latitude by 1 degree of longitude.

TOPO125—The file name for maps scaled at 1:125,000; entries for U.S. areas are 30 minutes of latitude by 30 minutes of longitude; these maps are historical and are no longer available.

TOPO250—The file name for maps scaled at 1:250,000; entries for U.S. areas are 1 degree of latitude by 2 degrees of longitude.

Reference Data Base—Contains two files:

Generic Reference File—The file name for more than 2,000 generic terms listed and cross-referenced to the appropriate GNIS feature type and, in many cases, includes an analysis of these terms and their application.

Bibliographic Reference File—The file name for annotated bibliographies for all source materials used in compiling the NGNDB.

Geographic Names Processing System (GNPS)—
This automated system, under development by the Defense Mapping Agency (DMA), is a digital data base of foreign geographic names information. When fully populated, the GNPS will provide names information for approximately 5 million geographic features worldwide. The data base tracks such information as BGN-approved names, unapproved and variant names, feature types and locations (in map coordinates and by administrative jurisdiction), and information about the sources from which names have been collected. BGN gazetteers of foreign areas are produced from this data base. The BGN's Foreign Names Committee uses standard reports from the GNPS to decide standard forms of spellings for foreign geographic names.

While the digital information from the GNPS is not currently available to the public, the DMA and the BGN plan to produce digital gazetteers of foreign areas on compact disk beginning in 1994. These digital products will be for sale. For further information regarding the GNPS and digital gazetteers of foreign areas, contact the BGN Executive Secretary for Foreign Names, Defense Mapping Agency, A-20, 8613 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22031-2137, or telephone 703-285-9518.

Inquiries
The BGN supports research on locations and (or) histories of domestic geographic features and their names. An extensive toponymic library of current and historical texts and maps is maintained at the U.S. Geological Survey by the staff of the Domestic Names Committee of the BGN. Staff members will research and respond to inquiries into current and historical placenames and locations. This is a free service available through the Executive Secretary for Domestic Names, U.S. Board on Geographic Names, U.S. Geological Survey, 523 National Center, Reston, VA 22092-0523.

For information about the BGN or geographic names in the United States, contact:

BGN Executive Secretary
and Executive Secretary for
Domestic Names
U.S. Geological Survey
523 National Center
Reston, VA 22092-0523
703-648-4544

For information about geographic names in foreign countries, contact:

BGN Executive Secretary for Foreign Names
Defense Mapping Agency A-20
8613 Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22031-2137
703-285-9518

Name, though it seem but a superficial and outward matter, yet it carrieth much impression and enchantment.

Francis Bacon

END

03/13/97